Bahrain Tribune - Newspaper

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Arig posts $1.5mn profit

Business Correspondent

Following a full-year loss in 2008, Arig returned to profitability posting a first quarter net profit of $1.5 million (Q1- 2008: $3 million) on the back of strong technical result of $8.6 million (Q1- 2008: $3.3 million) across its reinsurance portfolio.

Investment returns remained flat with a marginal deficit of $0.3 million reflecting current financial market conditions.

Gross written premium was down by 14 per cent due to lower trading volumes in the cyclical Engineering and Marine lines as well as the selective acceptance policy exercised by the company.

The group's reinsurance portfolio reached $111.8 million for the quarter.

All Life and non-life classes produced a robust combined ratio of 93.8 per cent (1st Quarter 2008: 101.3 per cent) based on net earned premiums. Shareholders' equity increased to $241.0 million as on 31 March 2009 (December 2008: $239.6 million). Book value per share stood at $1.14 on 31 March 2009 (December 2008: $1.13).